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NEW FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER

By the Editor

The famous story written by Mrs Shelley 140 years ago tells how the student Frankenstein created a monster to serve him, and how this monster got out of control and destroyed its maker.

Ten years ago, the western powers started to re-create a monster to serve their ends — the monster of German militarism. There were many warning voices, but these warnings were ignored. Today, the monster is beginning to flex its muscles and show its strength. The West German army, commanded exclusively by generals who served Hitler, and armed with weapons of atomic capability, is today the strongest military force in western Europe. Latest sign of its vigour is the West German attempt to establish a new axis with Franco Spain.

Some of the forces which created the new monster are now beginning to have second thoughts. This was shown very clearly in a leading article in the "Times", London, on February 25th:

"The West Germans could, if they wished, manufacture rockets and atomic warheads in Spain, for the limitations on their armaments industry, imposed by the Paris Agreements in 1954 and enforced by WEU inspection, apply only to 'the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany' ...

"Worst of all, these plans open up the prospect of (West) Germans 'going it alone' in the rebuilding of her armed forces. Hitherto, German rearmament has been part of the NATO system, and has been watched over by WEU ... But if the West Germans obtained bases outside the control of their allies, all the old fears would return. It is not a big step from arms dumps to arms factories, or from aircraft bases to missile bases; and even if the present (West) German Government would never take such a step, can we be sure that its successors would not?"

The dangers which have now belatedly been recognised by such British newspapers as "The Times" were pointed out over five years ago by the socialist countries of Europe in a joint declaration published in Moscow on December 2nd 1954. This declaration stated:

"The idea that the inclusion of a remilitarised West Germany in the Western European Union will make it possible to confine the growth of German militarism to certain limits is regarded with natural mistrust by the people of Europe. It is not possible to obtain peace in Europe by giving free rein to the revival of German militarism, and simultaneously calming oneself by inventing certain guarantees against it, the ineffectiveness of which are obvious. In order to ensure peace in Europe it is necessary to make impossible the birth of German militarism itself."

Important forces in the western powers are now, at long last, realising that the Frankenstein monster which they created is beginning to get out of hand: it is not enough for them to express their half-hearted conviction, like "The Times", that the present West German Government would "never take the step" of making nuclear warheads in Spain, or to make polite recommendations to the old nazis who run things in Bonn. German militarism cannot be brought under control by expressions of concern and polite recommendations.

The people of Britain, the United States and France will have to see to it that their representatives go to the Summit Conference in Paris in May with a mandate to dismantle the monster they have created before it plunges the world into nuclear war.

After Spain — Switzerland, Greece? ☛ See Next Page

WEHRMACHT BASES IN SPAIN, TURKEY, GREECE, SWITZERLAND

The West German Wehrmacht is negotiating for military bases in Spain, Greece and Switzerland, and already has such bases in Turkey, it was authoritatively learned in Bonn at the end of February.

The news that the West German militarists were negotiating for military bases in Spain hit the headlines all over the world in the last week of February. Political observers recalled that Hitler's final preparations for World War Two included the dispatch to Spain of the "Condor Legion", a formation of regular members of the nazi Wehrmacht which helped Franco to win the Spanish Civil war, and which gave German soldiers important front-line experience fully utilised later in the blitzkrieg against the world.

When the news of the new Bonn-Madrid axis broke on February 22nd, the first reaction in Bonn was to try to deny the reports, but on February 25th West German Defence Minister Strauss confirmed at a special meeting of the Parliamentary Defence Committee that negotiations were in progress. He told the Defence Committee that the talks with the fascist government in Madrid were being conducted by General Albert Schnez, who served on the nazi General Staff throughout World War Two, and who was personally promoted to Colonel by Hitler two weeks before the end of the war.

Minister Strauss also told the Defence Committee that negotiations for the establishment of military bases were in progress with other European states, both member states of Nato and countries which were not NATO members.

The London "Sunday Times" confirmed on February 28th that West Germany was already using military air bases in Turkey, and that economic pressure was being brought to bear on Greece to allow the establishment of West German military bases in that country. Authoritative political sources in Bonn stated that negotiations were already well advanced for West German military bases in Switzerland, which is not a member of NATO. In order to preserve the apearance of traditional Swiss neutrality, these military bases would, at least at first, consist only of arms and ammunition dumps nominally under the control of the Swiss munitions firms providing the equipment.

In the House of Commons on February 25th, British Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd mildly criticised the West German action in seeking military bases in Spain, stating: "I made it clear that we thought it would be wiser for Germany to seek the required facilities in countries which are members of NATO."

Labour M. P. Robert Edwards, who was a member of the Independent Labour Party contingent attached to Spanish Republican militia forces in 1937, told the House that negotiations were well advanced for the building of a West German missile establishment in Bilbao, and that this fact was well known in Bilbao. Mr Selwyn Lloyd promised that he would inquire into this subject.

If West German military bases are in fact established in Spain, the West German armed forces will be able to staff them with officers with "Spanish experience", since a considerable number of officers of the Federal forces fought in the ranks of Hitler's Condor Legion against the Spanish Republic. Most prominent of them is General Hannes Trautloft, who was sent to Spain by Hitler on July 27th 1936, only one week after General Franco launched his revolt. In his book "Pilot in Spain", published during the nazi period, General Trautloft described with great enthusiasm how he had bombed and strafed Spanish towns and villages. Today Trautloft is in charge of the training of Adenauer's new Luftwaffe.

"War Tomorrow?" – W. German Paper

West Germany today gives the impression of a country only one step from war, the influential Dusseldorf newspaper "Neue Rhein Zeitung" stated on February 25th. The newspaper stressed that it was not opposed to the existence of the West German army, or air-raid precautions, but that it was opposed to the "hysterical talk about war service, emergency, and so on. The "Neue Rhein Zeitung" stated:

"If you returned to the Federal Republic today after some years on a South Sea Island, you would get, in the first 24 hours, the impression that the shooting war was due to start tomorrow. Why? Because everday you can read in the newspapers news like this:

"Air-raid exercises in many towns and villages — as though war was due to start tomorrow.

"Decisions on emergency labour service for women — as though war was due to start tomorrow.

"Memoranda about a private militia in Schleswig-Holstein are under serious discussion — as though war was due to start tomorrow.

"Legislation on the Emergency Law is being rushed through — as though war was due to start tomorrow.

"Conscript age groups who saw war service are being organised — as though war was due to start tomorrow.

"Military bases and supply bases are being planned in Spain and other countries — as though war had already started.

"The military plans, measures and actions which have rained down upon us in the past few weeks awaken the following impression:

1. That the situation is so serious that everybody should have a rifle under their beds.

2. That the whole of policy in Bonn consists solely in military preparations."

Two Tories Say "Recognise GDR"

Viscount Hinchingbrooke, Conservative M. P., made this statement on the German question in an interview with Democratic Germany's television service on February 17th:

"The German problem is really the central theme of the forthcoming summit conference. I regard the ultimate reunification of Germany as essential. To achieve that unification you must start by recognising that there are two halves of Germany to be united. Now, the western powers do not yet recognise East Germany, whereas the Soviet Government recognises the West German Government. But I think that the time has arrived for the British to take the lead in recognising the East German Government. It may take some time to do. We may have to start by sending a trade consul to Leipzig to indicate to the West what our intentions ultimately are, but I do believe that the British Government should recognise facts; we do in many parts of the world. We recognise Communist China. We recognise all the eastern communist governments except East Germany. East Germany is on the map, she has 18 millions in population, she is a country and should be recognised as such."

In an interview with the GDR's TV service on February 16th, Lord Boothby, Conservative Member of the House of Lords, also answered questions about Germany:

Question: *The German question is certainly one of the most complicated of all the problems in the world at this time. How do you think progress can be made towards its solution?*

Answer: I think there are two things that could be done quite quickly. I think we should recognise the existence of the two Germanys and face up to the implication of that — recognise East Germany as a separate state for the time being, and West Germany, and try to increase trade as much as possible between the East and the West... I think that is terribly important. In the long run, some kind of German reunification may come about. I think myself on a confederal basis. If that happens, I myself should wish to see three things.

First of all, a recognition of the Oder-Neisse frontier in the East, which I think just has to be accepted.

Secondly, no nuclear weapons for Germany. Germany as such has to renounce nuclear weapons — both German states!

Thirdly, I think that there should be a pact, a European security pact, signed by the Soviet Union and Poland on the one side and France and ourselves on the other, guaranteeing the security of Germany, which would then in effect become a neutral state. Now, that's a long term solution which may never happen.

Question: *That would mean West Germany out of NATO and East Germany out of the Warsaw Pact?*

Answer: It is quite impossible that a reunited Germany, even in a loose federation, could ever be a member either of the Warsaw Pact or of NATO. I think that would be out of the question! One of the difficulties that I see about the summit conference is — what they are going to negotiate about. Now the obvious first choice is Berlin, but I do not see any solution of the Berlin problem, even a temporary one, without recognition of the East German Government.

OLYMPIC MEDALS FOR GDR

Helmut Recknagel, 23, wound up the Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley with a second gold medal for the athletes from Democratic Germany. Helga Haase of East Berlin, skating in the 500 meter and 1000 meter competitions, had already won a gold and a silver medal for the group, which was competing in California as part of an all-German team.

The population of the GDR, in its elation over the final Olympic victory of the young man from the mountains of Thuringia, had largely forgotten its bitterness over the discriminatory measures of the US State Department, which denied visas to all journalists and some of the trainers from Democratic Germany.

Newspapers and sports organisations from many countries protested the U.S. State Department decision. The "New York Times" stated on February 17th:

"The State Department has granted visas to the athletes but refused them to the reporters.

"This doesn't make much sense. True, we do not recognize an East German government, and we do not wish to take any action implying such recognition. But if athletes can be admitted, why not sports writers? It is difficult not to agree with the implied rebuke to the State Department contained in a resolution adopted by the International Olympic Commttee, reaffirming 'its profound belief in the freedom of the press throughout the world'."

East Berlin newspapers pointed out that 124 journalists from the USA had visited the GDR during the past two years alone and recalled that gold medal jumper Helmut Recknagel had also been denied a visa one year ago to jump at Squaw Valley in the preparatory competitions for the Olympics.

WORST MINE DISASTER

In the worst disaster in the history of the German Democratic Republic, 123 miners were killed in a mine explosion on February 22nd near the town of Zwickau. Despite a week of feverish attempts to break through the walls of fire, smoke and gas, only 51 of the shift trapped underground could be saved. The volunteer teams trying to save the trapped men included rescue squads from Czechoslovakia.

On Sunday, February 28th, all rescue attempts had to be abandoned when a devastating fire was found to be still raging in the area where the missing miners had been working.

A day of mourning, proclaimed for the entire GDR on February 27th, was marked by two minutes of silence at noon. Premier Grotewohl, speaking at the mourning ceremonies at Zwickau, brought the condolences of the Government and promised that the widows and orphans of the lost miners would be helped in every way for the rest of their lives.

A commission of mine experts, trade union officers and government representatives is investigating the cause of the catastrophe.

Nazi Minister Dies

Hermann Lindrath, West German Treasury Minister, died on February 27th at the age of 63. During the nazi period Herr Lindrath was a storm trooper, and held membership card No. 3,997,157 of the Nazi Party.

Solving the West Berlin Problem

The West Berlin problem can only be solved by turning it into a demilitarised Free City, "Neues Deutschland", central newspaper of the Socialist Unity Party stated on February 21st.

Political circles in both parts of Germany assessed the editorial statement as an important basic document in the period of preparation for the Summit Conference to be held in Paris in May. The editorial, slightly shortened, is reproduced below:

The situation of West Berlin is so abnormal that in foreign countries people often find it hard to understand how we in the German Democratic Republic can tolerate such a situation. A Chinese friend, for instance, has tried to imagine how it would be if a large part of Peking were occupied by foreign troops ... which sent out their spies and agents in all directions; if Chiang Kai-shek sat in one of the Peking palaces, and used it as a centre from which to threaten and slander socialist China. The Chinese friend said that he found it impossible to imagine such a situation.

The citizens of London, Paris, Washington and Rome should try to imagine such a situation in their own cities. They would agree too that this was impossible.

Recently the situation has become even more unbearable ... (West German Defence Minister) Strauss declared not long ago in the West German Parliament that the West German Army had to be strong and ready for offensive action just because of Berlin. This obviously means that he wants to use West Berlin, which could always be utilised as the scene of a provocation, as the fuse to start his war ...

The allies of West Germany are obviously reluctant to lay their destiny in the hands of the West German General Staff, which wishes to lead NATO into a war against the socialist countries. They were shocked, and they protested, when Adenauer, speaking in Berlin, tried to bar the path to negotiations by rejecting a solution of the West Berlin problem. It is probably not a coincidence that Eisenhower recently repeated emphatically that the situation in West Berlin is abnormal. Recognition of this fact obviously means that this abnormal situation must be changed.

In this situation the GDR has shown great patience and an extremely conciliatory spirit. Although West Berlin lies on the territory of the GDR, we do not demand that West Berlin should simply be incorporated in the GDR. We desire a peaceful solution by means of negotiations, and are ready for far-reaching compromises. West Berlin should become a demilitarised Free City.

Our readiness for compromises is subject to one limitation: the principle of maintaining and guaranteeing peace. In accordance with this principle, any compromise is out of the question which would legalise hostile activity from West Berlin against the GDR and the socialist countries, or which would give West German militarism any rights in West Berlin. For this reason the memorandum on the West Berlin question submitted to Erich Ollenhauer, Chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party, by Andrei Smirnov (Soviet Ambassador in Bonn) emphasises that the idea that West Germany should annex West Berlin ... has no chance of acceptance ...

Especially for the West Berliners themselves, the demilitarised Free City would be an excellent solution. It would guarantee peace, something which they must desire, and it would put an end to the continual worries about the "freedom of the transit routes". As far as communications with West Germany are concerned, it would create a solid treaty basis, supported by international guarantee, instead of the present post-war provisional status. Communications with the GDR, at present hindered by the security measures which it has been necessary to take, would be re-established.

The economic situation of West Berlin would certainly not suffer. The economic links with West Germany would continue, and in addition the Soviet Union would be ready to place orders and to guarantee the necessary raw materials and foodstuff supplies on a commercial basis ... If the West Berliners prefer the capitalist system, then they should keep it. They alone would have the decision to make on this question.

But the question as to whether West Berlin should continue to be a time-bomb is not something which just concerns the West Berliners: it is an international question. West Berlin would have to renounce any membership in military treaties, and renounce subversive activities against the GDR and the socialist camp. This step would not be a burden to the West Berliners, but an advantage.

There are people in West Berlin who say: "We know where we are now: everything else is uncertain: let's keep things as they are." But in fact the West Berliners are today sitting on a time-bomb which threatens the peace of the world and themselves most of all. The abnormal situation must be changed, for the sake of peace.

Ambassador Smirnov's declaration leaves no doubt on this subject. If the western powers refuse to conclude a peace treaty with the two German states, and if it does not prove possible to solve the West Berlin problem by means of negotiations, then there will remain nothing to be done but for the GDR to conclude a peace treaty, and the West Berlin problem will be settled on the basis of this treaty. Ambassador Smirnov has pointed out that in this case the GDR will then naturally exercise its sovereignty on its territory and in its air space, just like any other independent state. Smirnov's memorandum stated: "It is clear that an end will be made to all unsupervised communication between West Berlin and the Federal Republic, and that all modes of communication between them will come under the control of the GDR." If, in such a situation, the West should return to the idea of negotiating about West Berlin, then the GDR would be the only partner for such negotiations.

The Government of the USA should pay heed to this point. In its "digestion of historic facts" the USA has not yet reached 1949, the year in which the GDR and the Chinese People's Republic were founded, and would therefore like to delay recognition of these states a little longer. Ambassador Smirnov pointed out that a modus vivendi might be found which would take into account this difficulty of the USA. Once a peace treaty had been signed with the GDR, however, and if the USA still had troops in West Berlin, then there would be no method by which the USA could avoid negotiating with the GDR.

The explanations given by Ambassador Smirnov are very welcome at this time. They will help various interested parties to ascertain the real position before the Summit Conference, and to draw the consequences. Illusions would only make fruitful negotiations more difficult.

MURDERER JAILED

Accomplices at Large

1939 October — Eradicate all "elements not worthy of life"! That was Hitler's secret command at the beginning of World War II — and the official start of the nazi "Euthanasia Programme". A group of top nazis, confidantes of Hitler and Himmler, organised the process. They needed doctors with reputations as psychiatrists, however. This is where Dr Werner Heyde entered the picture — a professor at Wuerzburg and an SS-man who favoured euthanasia, he soon played a leading part in the whole programme.

Dr Heyde and his colleagues sent questionnaires to the mental institutions, with orders to list all patients who suffered from schizophrenia epilepsy, senility, encephalitis, feeblemindedness, patients who were committed longer than five years and also patients with "non-German blood".

These people were then sent to special stations. They were secretly gassed, their bodies were burnt and letters of condolence were sent to their relatives announcing that they had died of sickness. The final decision as to who was to be killed was made by Dr Heyde and his colleagues. They worked hard — sometimes approving as many as 300 deaths in three days. The number of patients killed in this way is estimated at 70,000. The names of 30,000 more were still pending in August 1941, when the programme was temporarily halted, partly because so many German families were discovering what was happening that war morale was suffering — and secondly, because a much larger field of endeavour had opened up. "Action 14 F 13" used the same methods as with the insane to exterminate "enemies of the people" and Jews in the concentration camps. At the beginning they, too, were certified to be insane.

Himmler had requested again that "psychiatrists" be used to superintend this murder set-up. They arrived at Dachau in November 1941.

"The 'psychiatrists' sat in the open on a couple of tables, headed by Professor Heyde... In this way, during the Dachau visitation, hundreds of prisoners, Aryans as well as Jews, were examined purely on their political records. In January, 1942, they were gassed..." ("The Final Solution" by Gerald Reitlinger, London 1953, p. 134.) These were the beginnings of the mass murder which soon began in the death camps of Poland and elsewhere. Dr Heyde soon reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the SS for his work, which he continued at Buchenwald.

1945 Shortly before the end of the war, Heyde fled to Denmark where he was eventually picked up by British troops.

1946—47 Twenty-two nazi doctors were tried at Nuremberg by a US Military Court from December 9th 1946 till August 20th 1947. They were charged with taking part in the euthanasia murders or in the brutal experiments, sadistic treatment and extermination in the concentration camps. Seven of Heyde's accomplices were hanged, some took their own lives and many were sentenced for ten or twenty years.

But one seat in the dock and one gallows remained empty. Werner Heyde had jumped from a US jeep on his way to the trial and disappeared.

1950 A man called Dr Fritz Sawade, who had been doing farm work up till then, got a job as sports doctor in a school at Flensburg near the Danish border; the mayor of the city had recommended him, so the schoolmaster gave him the job without asking too many questions.

Not only Mayor Drews took an interest in Dr Fritz Sawade; Prosecutor General Voss of the Superior Court in Schleswig-Holstein, who had once been responsible for "political crimes" in Hitler's Justice Ministry, was also friendly to him, and he soon rose in importance. Before long he was sworn in as a regular court doctor — which meant deciding whether or not pensions were medically justified — often in cases of victims of nazi terror. Despite many negative decisions in such cases, Dr Sawade netted 300,000 marks (£25,000) in fees. He also earned additional fees by lecturing — in at least one case he lectured on the career of nazi euthanasia-doctor Werner Heyde.

1959 On November 5th an elderly man told police authorities in Kiel (capital of Schleswig-Holstein province) that Fritz Sawade, the respected doctor in Flensburg, was one and the same man as Werner Heyde, the war criminal. A meeting of police and state prosecutors to discuss the question was arranged for 4:30 p.m. that day. But by 4:00 p.m. the same day Heyde had already left his office and again disappeared.

A big search action all over West Germany failed to find the fugitive, but controls at all airports and border points made an escape abroad more difficult than in recent cases of fleeing fugitives, which had often proved embarassing to West Germany. Finally, on November 12th, Dr Heyde turned himself in to the police of Wuerzburg, the city where he had once preached his euthanasia theories.

Dr Heyde has not yet been brought to trial — he is still waiting in a Frankfurt jail and will probably be returned to a court in Flensburg or Kiel in the province of Schleswig-Holstein.

Questions still occupying the public are:

Who warned Heyde on November 5th that he was under suspicion?

How was it possible for "Sawade" to hold a responsible job as medical court adviser for so many years?

How many important men in government and judicial jobs knew exactly who he was and kept quiet?

Judge Buresch, President of the Provincial Welfare Court in Schleswig-Holstein, knew the facts since 1954 and has been suspended, and two other judges will probably also lose their jobs. But other, even bigger fish seem to have been in the know as well — right up to Herr Kai-Uwe von Hassel, Prime Minister of the Schleswig-Holstein province and a prominent member of Dr Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party.

These questions will soon be raised — a) in the provincial parliament, where a commission will examine Heyde, and b) in a provincial court, where he will be tried.

The provincial parliament itself includes members suspected of knowing all about Heyde-Sawade. It also includes men like war criminal Heinz Reinefarth, an SS General who helped destroy Warsaw and massacre thousands of Poles, and who was saved from legal action recently because of his parliamentary immunity in this same Schleswig-Holstein parliament.

(cont. at foot of next page)

W. German Pupils Write about Anti-Semitism

(Condensed from an article by Franz Freisleder published on February 6th in the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" of Munich, West Germany.)

The latest anti-Semitic actions in the Federal Republic were largely the work of young people who were only very young children during the nazi regime and could not have been infected by the propaganda of that period. This fact led Headmaster Franz Seilnaht of the Weiler School to ask boy and girl pupils aged 12 to 16 the two questions: "What do you know about Hitler's policies towards the Jews?" and "What is your opinion of the anti-Jewish events in various West German cities?"

The 226 compositions show clearly the weaknesses of the present school curriculum: it teaches recent history much too late — when the children are already 14 — and then compresses this whole historical period into a single year.

Teachers who are not especially interested in educating the children in a democratic way therefore have an easy opportunity to pass over the period from 1933 to 1945 very hurriedly or even to leave it out entirely, since it is second to last subject in the year's curriculum ...

About 60 of the 226 compositions showed that their writers knew absolutely nothing about Hitler's policy towards the Jews. Three boys of 13 turned in empty sheets of paper. Others, aged 12, wrote: "Unfortunately I am unable to write about this subject, because I have never heard anything about it." — "I really cannot write anything about this. I read the newspapers very seldom. Actually, I am only interested in comic books" — "He ruled until 1945. He very probably did not get along well with the Jews."

Only a few compositions mentioned the number of Jews killed by the nazis, and those that did usually referred to "thousands". The fact that Hitler had caused the murder of 6 million Jews was only mentioned by 7 of the 226 public school pupils. Remarks reflecting more or less strong feelings against the Jews were to be found in 17 papers. 20 children thought Hitler's fight against the Jews to be harmless: they did not mention the murders. Christa, 12 years old, wrote: "He made war against the Jews. The Jews had to wear swastikas and could not go into the stores. Hitler committed suicide because he could not stand himself any longer. I do not know anything else about the subject."

Eleven pupils wrote that their parents did not tell them anything about the Hitler period. "They say very little about the subject. When I ask about what happened, they tell me, 'You wouldn't understand that.'" — "Unfortunately I do not know much about Hitler, because my parents do not tell me anything about him, because they say that that was all too cruel and I cannot sleep at night anyway."

Five boys wrote that they had heard nothing or next to nothing about the subject at school. A pupil of 16 wrote: "We have not yet studied the period after 1900 in our history lessons and I only know that Hitler regarded the Germanic race as the only worthwhile race ..." A 15-year pupil wrote critically: "I do not understand how a whole people can let themselves be bluffed by such worthless, brutal and vicious men (as the nazis). Why don't the authors of our history books write about such things? Why do they only write about the military side of World War II in our school books? If they told us all the facts, would we not be far more secure from the repetition of such a catastrophe?"

With children who could only write in their compositions what they had accidentally overheard at home or elsewhere, it is not surprising to read such ideas: "Naturally, it was not nice of Hitler. But maybe he had his definite reasons for acting so." (12 year-old pupil.). "I am against such (anti-Semitic) daubings. They disturb the process of everyday life and people in other countries say, 'It's always the Germans'. Although I myself could not be friendly with a Jew or marry a Jewish girl, nevertheless I believe that people should leave them in peace." (16-year-old pupil.). "I do not know what caused Hitler to hate the Jews. It must be remembered that after World War I many Jews were in leading positions and did not have exactly friendly feelings towards the German people. They lent money at usurious prices and when someone could not pay they had his property seized immediately. That is the only reason why Hitler's persecutions were approved by such a large part of the people ..." The young pupil ended with the words: "What is past is past. There can be no question of a collective responsibility."

The current anti-Semitic actions were rejected by all who wrote anything about them. The girls, almost without exception, only expressed their horror, but most boys added that they harmed the German reputation abroad and they thought that they were caused by "anti-German countries, especially the communists."

Only one boy saw a danger to democracy in the events of the last week. He asked: "Have the old so-called nazis changed their ideas overnight?" He then wrote that he heard about the attempted burning of the synagogue in Amberg over the radio and he closed with the question: "Where will it all end?"

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As for the judicial apparatus in Schleswig-Holstein, it includes the following men (a small sampling):

Werner Rhode — senior government councillor in the provincial Ministry of Justice — was a public prosecutor in Occupied Prague, where he demanded death sentences for dozens of Czech anti-fascists during the war. Most were executed.

Dr Rehbock — provincial court councillor in Kiel — was a judge in a nazi special court. He once sentenced one Dutch and three Belgian forced labourers to death for stealing a bit of tobacco; he also sentenced German anti-nazis to death.

Dr Thamm was once a public prosecutor in a nazi special court at Kiel. Now he is senior public prosecutor in Kiel.

Hans-Martin Krohn, Dr Erich Schlichting, Dr Franz Sieboldt — all military judges or military court councillors in the nazi Wehrmacht, are all senate presidents in the upper provincial court of Schleswig-Holstein.

The West German bench is filled with guilty men like these. Will they speak justice in the case of Dr Heyde alias Sawade?

GDR-British Trade

An agreement on trade exchanges between Britain and Democratic Germany in 1960 was arrived at between the Federation of British Industries and the Chamber for Foreign Trade in mid-February. The agreement made in 1959 between the two organisations has thus been renewed.

As in the 1959 agreement, a maximum export of £7 million worth of goods on both sides is foreseen. Although this maximum has not been reached, the exports by Britain to Democratic Germany jumped from £2.3 million (in 1958) to £3.5 million under the agreement in 1959, and are expected to climb still higher this year. They will include textiles, plastics, radio and television equipment and industrial plant and machinery, with a probable emphasis on equipment for Democratic Germany's expanding chemical industry.

Imports to Britain have also gone up steeply, from £3.4 million in 1958 to £4.6 million last year under the agreement. In 1960 the GDR will sell Britain more chemicals and chemical fertilisers, as well as paraffin and machinery, typewriters, photographic equipment, sport equipment and sport boats.

* * *

British firms are supplying plans and equipment for a chemical plant in Democratic Germany which will produce 40,000 tons of ethylene when finished, it was announced on February 20th.

The plant, whose first stage should be completed by December 1962, will be designed and equipped by Humphreys and Glasgow, Ltd. and Petrocarbon Development, Ltd.

TU Visit to Guinea

The first GDR trade unionists to visit Africa south of the Sahara made an extended trip to Guinea in late February. The delegation, led by Chairman Herbert Warnke of the Free German Trade Union Federation, spoke with African unionists on plans to increase friendly contacts. Highpoint of the trip was a conference with Guinean President Sékou Touré on February 23rd.

Addressing representatives of seven African countries at a school sponsored by the Trade Union Federation of Black Africa (UGTAN), Herbert Warnke said that "the friendship between the working people of Germany and Africa is stronger than the alliance between French and German imperialists which resulted in the Sahara A-bomb test."

A Tale of Two Young Men

1. Rolf Wollny, Anti-Semite

Rolf Wollny, 23, was arrested on January 5th 1960 in West Berlin, his native city. The young office-worker had daubed swastikas, Jewish stars and the words "Juden raus" ("Out with the Jews") onto shopwindows belonging to Jewish proprietors. The West Berlin court, under the influence of the world-wide alarm about anti-Semitic incidents, sentenced Wollny to ten months of jail, without parole.

In a West German television interview Wollny told a reporter who visited him in jail that he still believed that Jews "should all be sent out of the country, to Jerusalem, in order to settle the question once and for all".

On February 9th Wollny was quietly released from jail. He soon returned to the shops whose windows he had defaced and told their owners that they should not take things so seriously, much worse things could happen. He taunted them with the fact that he was free again.

2. Klaus Walter, Antifascist

Klaus Walter, 20, also lives in West Berlin. His father, a railroad worker, has a long record of opposition to the nazis; he learned the trade of bricklayer but is now studying at the Humboldt University in East Berlin. (Many West Berliners study in East Berlin and vice versa.)

On January 11th, he was also arrested by the West Berlin police. In protest against the wave of anti-Semitism in West Germany, Walter had posted a placard showing West German Chancellor Adenauer weeping into a handkerchief covered with swastikas while Hans Globke and Theodor Oberlaender, both members of his government, leaned out of his pockets to paint swastikas and "Juden raus" slogans on the wall.

Unlike the anti-Semite Rolf Wollny, Klaus Walter is still in jail, or rather in the TB clinic of the jail, where he is confined because of his lung ailment. Neither his fiancée nor his sister are permitted to visit him, but only his mother. The prosecutor has told her that the trial would probably not be held until April or May.

Now both Theodor Oberlaender and Chancellor Adenauer have served notice that they intend to sue him personally for libel.

Since his arrest, thousands of his fellow-students in East Berlin and young workers all over the German Democratic Republic have demanded Klaus Walter's release and protested against the new wave of anti-Semitism in West Germany. They have also sent thousands of letters to Klaus Walter in his hospital cell in the youth jail at Ploetzensee in West Berlin.

Work has just begun in East Berlin on the extension of the Stalin Allee, post-war housing project driven through a former slum area flattened by bombing. Our picture of a model of one of the new blocks of apartments to go up this year shows that GDR architects have now abandoned the neo-classicist or "wedding cake" style of building which marks the older part of the Stalin Allee, built in 1952–53.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Allen Mann

Even the hastiest visitor to Germany (and in this sense the country is not divided) cannot fail to notice how much the Germans like to shake hands. And even the few who are not addicted to this form of greeting are compelled to follow the custom by the iron rules of etiquette. Of course, people in many countries shake hands; but I think that none do it so often and so thoroughly as here in Germany.

Morning Shake

When a worker comes to the factory locker-room every morning, he shakes hands with all his workmates. When students come to class, they shake the hands of any fellow-students crossing their path into the lecture hall; even the littlest boys and girls shake hands earnestly with one another every day — they carry their books on their backs here, which makes this even easier.

If someone enters a room where a meeting is being held — and meetings are constantly being held everywhere and at all times in the GDR — he also goes around the room shaking hands, even if there are ten or fifteen people present. He will then say, "You're wanted on the telephone, Herr Schmidt", perhaps, or "I just wanted to see if my wife is still here" and then he may leave — after shaking everyone's hand once again. This has sometimes been enough to break up a meeting entirely, often to the delight of everyone but the chairman.

Even when only a few people are involved, things may seem complicated to a foreigner unused to the custom. If my wife and I meet a couple we know while out walking, that means four separate handshakes, with each one patiently awaiting his proper turn; it all lasts three or four minutes sometimes. "Nice to see you both", one says. "I'll see you at work tomorrow, Hans." And then the whole ordeal starts all over again, while saying "Auf Wiedersehen!"

Glove Peelers

Things are more difficult when gloves must first be peeled off, or when the other person has been working with tar or motor oil. Even when he says, "Don't bother — my hand is too dirty", you must smile and answer, "Oh, that doesn't matter" while you curse inwardly, recalling that you just washed and are late for a dinner appointment.

Of course, you can also reach past the soiled or damp right hand and shake the right elbow; etiquette rules seem to consider this a perfectly valid substitute.

I sometimes think that the custom in India would be preferable — to clasp one's own hands together in greeting. And by dropping the custom altogether, one could save all the minutes lost in shaking hands by millions of people, dozens of times every day. If these lost minutes were used productively, the current Seven Year Plan could certainly be completed at least a year ahead of time.

(Note: This last suggestion is only meant in fun. I must point this out very carefully! A foreign journalist working in the GDR made this proposal in print several years ago. He neglected to label it "humour", whereupon a West German newspaper seized on it with the usual deadly anti-Socialist bitterness as a "new inhuman proposal for speed-up in the Soviet Zone".)

Not So Backward

Since I have written of one minor German characteristic, it is only fair that I also write of another one which is immeasurably more important. Unfortunately, this time it applies basically only to the German Democratic Republic. Germany was long a land known for its hauteur and feelings of superiority towards other peoples — especially those of the so-called "backward nations". Hitler based a whole system of mass slaughter on these feelings. But by now in the GDR it has been possible to reduce these old racist feelings to an astonishing minimum. Constant reference to Poles, Italians, Czechs, Russians and French in terms of friendship in newspapers, books and radio have clearly made their mark. Real feelings of neighbourliness are developing towards these and all other nationalities, sometimes for the first time in centuries. As for anti-Semitism, the laws against race hatred are severe, and have always been used against those expressing pogrom-type ideas. But school lessons, films, radio and TV programmes have always emphasised international friendship and anti-fascism so strongly that there were in the GDR no signs at all of the recent big wave of anti-Semitism.

What about feelings towards the people of Asia and Africa? There is a great deal of curiosity; indeed, away from the larger cities and their foreign students, this curiosity borders on the spectacular! A Nigerian acquaintance of mine was invited to visit the May Day celebrations in a village rather off the beaten track; he never saw the celebrations, however, for his presence alone was enough to disrupt the whole carefully planned programme. From the minute he first appeared, he was surrounded by throngs of villagers wanting to chat with him, get his autograph, ask him questions and, of course, shake his hand. The questions ranged from the ones about lions or tigers to more complicated queries about political and trade union issues. It was similar, perhaps, to the trip of a European to a village in Central Africa about a century ago.

All in all, the response to people from far-off lands is usually quite inquisitive, but always very, very friendly. The curiosity is partly due to the lack of travel abroad in the past years, resulting from short supplies of foreign currency and lack of recognition by the western countries as well as heavy doses of suspicion and lack of initiative on all sides. This situation is now changing — an estimated 60,000 GDR citizens will visit foreign countries in 1960; five years ago there was only a handful in comparison. The number of countries visited has increased largely, too, so that personal experiences are increasingly supporting the friendly feelings here.

More Tourists

Of course, there are a few exceptions to all this. But with the steadily increasing number of GDR tourists, I believe that people from many countries will see for themselves the noteworthy spirit of good will towards other people which has developed here over the years.

GERMAN REPORT readers on European seacoasts may see some of these tourists, if only from afar. The first group of about 500 — nearly all workers — left on February 24th aboard the trade union ship "Voelkerfreundschaft" ("International Friendship") for a low-cost but luxurious trip to Mediterranean and Black Sea waters.

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